CHAPTER 3
MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS

According to P. D. Graver there are only twelve modal auxiliary verbs but they are used very frequently and with a lot of meanings. They express concepts or attitudes relating to recommendation, obligation, necessity and prohibition, permission and refusal, possibility, expectation, probability and certainty, promise and intention, ability and willingness. There are four paired forms*: can-could, may-might; shall-should, will-would;* and four single forms*: must, ought to, need*, *dare*. (1995: 17)

R. Quirk also includes *used to* in the list of modals together with *need* and *dare* as marginal modal auxiliaries. *Used* always takes the *to*-infinitive and occurs only in the past tense. It may take the *do*-construction, in which the spellings *didn't used to* and *didn't use to* both occur. The interrogative construction *used he to*? is especially BrE; *did he use to*? is preferred in both AmE and BrE.

☻Need and dare

They can be used either as modal auxiliaries (with short infinitive and with no inflected –*s* form) or as lexical verbs (with *to* -infinitive and with inflected –*s* form). The modal verb constructions are restricted to non-assertive (or non-affirmative) contexts.

Thus they are used mainly in negative and interrogative sentences, whereas the lexical verb construction is actually more common. *Dare* and *need,* as auxiliaries are rarer in AmE than in BrE.

◆ Need. The use of the three forms (*needn't*, *don't need to*, *don't have to*) has some common points with the use of *must* and *have to*. We shall have three examples:

1. *You needn't come if you don't want to*.

2. *You don't need to see a doctor*.

3. *I don't have to work on Saturdays*.

1. *Needn't* generally expresses the authority of the speaker, while the other two constructions denote external authority or circumstances remove the obligation or necessity for action.

2. *Needn't* + present infinitive has only a present or future time reference, although it can be left unchanged in reported speech, e. g.,

*I told him he **needn't** come if he didn't want to*.

If the absence of obligation or necessity will exist only eventually or is dependent on some other event, we use *not need to* or *not have to*, with *will* and *shall*:

*When you get an assistant, perhaps you **won't have to** work quite so hard yourself.*

The simple present tense *don't have to* and *don't need to* express what is habitual, or what is ⏐ already planned or arranged for the future:

I ⏐ ⏐ ***don't need*** *to get up till eight to get to work on time.*

We ⏐ ***don't have to*** ⏐ *be there till ten tomorrow*, or

We ***haven't got*** *to* ⏐ *be there till ten tomorrow.*

3. We use negative forms of *have to* and *need to* in some situations where *needn't* lacks the necessary forms:

*I **haven't had to** see a doctor for several years* (present perfect).

*We may **not need** to bring the subject up* (infinitive without *to*).

*We **wouldn't have to** hurry if the play started later* (conditional).

*We **wouldn't have had to** sleep in the car if we had booked a room at the hotel* (past conditional).

4. As the other forms of *needn't* are supplied by other verbs, we cannot always distinguish between the three verbs, especially their meanings. The difference between *don't need to* and *don't have to* in sentences 2 and 3 may be paraphrased as

2a. *It isn't necessary for you to see a doctor.*

3a. *I am not obliged to work on Saturdays.*

For the latter we could use another sentence, only slightly different in meaning:

*It **isn't necessary** for me to work on Saturdays.*

A more important distinction is the grammatical one between *don't need to* and *needn't. Don't need to* is part of the regular verb *to need*. Negative and interrogative sentences are formed using *do*, as with other regular verbs, and there is a full range of verb tenses. *To need* may be followed by a noun, an infinitive or a gerund:

He⏐ *needs/needed* ⏐ *your help.*
doesn't need/didn't need

Does   *he need your help*?
Did

I   *need/needed*   *to see him immediately.*
don't need/didn't need

A gerund after *to need* is the equivalent of a passive infinitive:

*My pen **needs** <u>filling</u> = My pen **needs** <u>to be filled</u>.*

The modal auxiliary verb *need* is always used in negative and interrogative sentences, which are made by adding *not* to the auxiliary verb and by inversion of the subject and auxiliary verb:

He **needn't** come. **Need** he come?

The interrogative forms *Must I?* and *Need I?* are more or less synonymous, although *Need I?* often suggests that the speaker hopes for a negative answer. The positive answer to both is *Yes, you must,* never **Yes, you need*. The negative answer is *No, you needn't*. The positive form *need* is, however, found in sentences that already have a negative verb or adverb:

I don't think that **need** worry us unduly.

He **need** study only the two chapters.

Needn't is followed by a perfect infinitive to indicate the absence of necessity or obligation in the past:

He **needn't** <u>have come</u>.

This sentence may be compared with others containing similar verb forms (auxiliary verb + perfect infinitive), which often suggests the idea 'contrary to fact':

You shouldn't have come (but you came).

You could have come (but you didn't come).

He needn't have come (but he came).

Needn't + perfect infinitive always expresses unreal past, and contrasts with *didn't need to*, which nearly always expresses real past:

I **needn't have gone** (but I went).

I **didn't need to** go (so presumably I didn't go).

◆ <u>Dare</u> as a modal verb is not as common as *need* and *used to*. It can be replaced by (*not*) *be afraid to* or (*not*) *have the courage to*. It occurs in questions and negatives and is rare in the affirmative, unless a negative is expressed or implied:

Dare you do it?

I **didn't dare** do it.

I hardly **dare** tell him what happened.

Questions and negatives are more common with *do/does/did*:

Do you **dare** tell him?

To can be used after *dare* when we use *do/don't* and *did/didn't*, making it a full verb, but not changing its meaning. Both *dare not* and *dared not* can be used to refer to the past.

She **dare(d)** not ask him come again.

Dare cannot combine with *be* + progressive, but it can combine with *have* + past participle, this not being very common:

She didn't like my idea but **daren't** <u>have said</u> so.

Daren't is used in the present (with reference to the present or future time) meaning *be afraid to*, to express courage or lack of courage:

I'd like to go earlier but I **daren't** (also accepted now: *I don't dare*).

As a modal it is often used to reprimand and express outrage or disapproval. It is especially common after *How*:

*How **dare** you!*

***Don't** you **dare** speak to me like that again!*

The verbs *dare* and *say* can combine into a single verb, *daresay*, which can be used in the first person singular and plural (present tense only) to mean 'I suppose' or 'it's possible', or in the sense of 'accept what you say':

*I **daresay** he'll be back by midnight!*

☻<u>General characteristics of modal verbs.</u>

The principal distinctive formal features of modal verbs are:

a) Negative sentences are formed by adding *not* after the modal verb;

b) Interrogative sentences are formed by inversion;

c) There is no *–s* ending in the third person singular present tense;

d) Modal verbs are followed by the infinitive without *to* (except *ought*).

e) Modal verbs have neither infinitive nor participle forms. That is why a number of more or less synonymous expressions are used instead: *be able to*, *have to*. It would not be possible to use *can* or *must* in the following:

I'd like to be able to speak English fluently.

No one has been able to solve the problem.

I've had to read this very carefully.

You'll have to pay extra for a single room.

f) Modal verbs are also limited in their range of time reference. When used with the present infinitive of the main verb, they generally have a present or future time reference:

> *He **can/could/may/might/will/would/shall/should/must/ought to** help you immediately/later.*

The use of the alternative forms *could/might/would/should* suggests a more tentative attitude on the part of the speaker. In requests it represents what is commonly called the polite form:

***Would** you do me a favour?*

Of the four past tense forms (*could/might/would/should*) only the first three are used to refer to past time when followed by a present infinitive, and then only within a restricted range of meanings:

> *He **could** speak several languages when he was ten.*
>
> *He was very independent, and **would** never ask for help.*
>
> *Try as he **might**, he couldn't get the car to start.*

The use of the four past tense forms is, however, automatic in the sequence of tenses in reported speech:

*He **can/could**/[...] tell me.*

*I said he **could/might/would/should** tell me.*

As we have already mentioned, tense and time are not always synonymous in English and, although a past tense often refers to the chronological terms past, it does not necessarily do so all the time. The past tenses of both modal and other verbs are frequently used with a present or future time reference, especially in tentative or unreal conditional sentences:

*I **could** come tomorrow, if that's convenient.* (future)

*If I knew how it worked, I **could** tell him what to do.* (present)

The four single forms *must*, *ought to*, *dare*, *need* may be left unchanged in reported speech:

*He **mustn't/oughtn't to/daren't/needn't** tell anyone.*

*I said he **mustn't/oughtn't to/daren't/needn't** tell anyone.*

There are two distinctive uses of modal verbs. In their primary function they are used to refer to ability, duty, willingness, permission etc. in relation to the subject:

He			
	must/mustn't		*obligation*
	needn't		*absence of obligation*
	should/ought to		*recommendation*
	shall	go immediately.	*promise*
	will		*willingness*
	may		*permission*
	can		*ability or permission*

Table I.

The second function of the modals is to assert different degrees of likelihood regarding the truth of the statement.

very uncertain

He			
	might		*possibility*
	may		*possibility*
	could		*possibility*
	can		*possibility*
	should		*probability*
	ought to	be there already.	*probability*
	would		*belief*
	will		*belief*
	can't/couldn't		*logical conclusion*
			logical conclusion

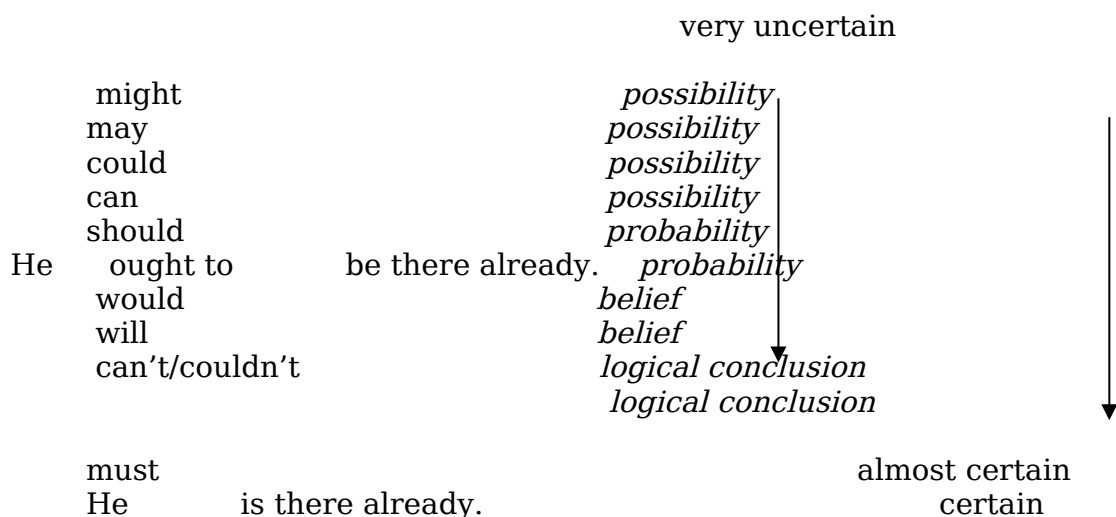|			
He	must		almost certain
		is there already.	certain

Table II.

(adapted after Graver and Alexander)

We can extend the range of time reference of the modal verbs and refer to past time by using the perfect infinitive of the main verb:

He must/can't couldn't/will/would/may/etc. **have been** *there already.*

The use of the past infinitive in such cases generally refers to real past, it does not usually affect the truth of the statement, and only in a limited number of contexts can it indicate unreal past (i.e. contrary to the fact). If we wish to refer to real past time with the modals, we either use the past tense of the modals, if appropriate or available, or we use a synonymous verb phrase. If the modal verbs as used in Table I are followed by a past infinitive, they always indicate unreal past:

He needn't/should/ought to/would/might/could **have gone** *yesterday.*

☻ Ability or potential: *can, could, be able to*

C*an* is used to indicate:

1. The possession of ability in general;

He **can** *speak Spanish fluently.*

2. The ability in particular circumstances, the performance of the activity indicated by the main verb, e.g.,

 I **can/could** *give him a straight answer now/later/tomorrow.* In the first sentence *can* forms part of a statement having general current validity, whereas in the second, it refers to an ability existing in particular circumstances at the present or future time indicated. It is important to recognise this distinction between ability in general and ability in specific circumstances. It is also important to note that both sentences refer to a <u>potential</u> performance of the action mentioned, not to an actual performance.

1.a. *He* **could** *speak Spanish when he was younger.*

This sentence represents the equivalent of sentence 1 in the chronological past. It refers to the possession of the ability to speak Spanish, not to an actual performance of speaking.

2.a. *I* **could** *have given him a straight answer.*

This is the equivalent in past time of sentence 2 and means 'I was in a position to give him a straight answer' (ability in specific circumstances at a specific time). Here again it does not refer to an actual performance; it implies that I did not give him an answer. Such sentences suggest a conditional idea:

*I **could** have given him an answer if he had asked me.*

If we wish to refer to an actual performance, we use a form of *be able to*, as in sentence:

2.b. *I **was able to** give him an answer yesterday.*

3. *I **can** <u>see</u>/**could** <u>hear</u> quite clearly what you are doing/were saying.*

Verbs like *see*, *hear*, and *understand* come into a special category (already mentioned). The ability to see and the performance of seeing are inseparable and in this case the use of *could* is possible when referring to an actual performance in past time. The negative form *couldn't* necessarily indicates non-performance of an action, and may always be used to refer to past time.

*He **can't/couldn't** see her in the distance.*

Can may be used with a future time reference (*I can see you tomorrow*) but in this case the ability is more or less taken for granted now and is not really in question. In cases where ability will exist only eventually or where it is dependent on some other event in the future we use *be able to* with *will* or *shall*:

*By the time he finishes his course, he**'ll be able to** speak English well.*

We also use *be able to* when we wish to indicate that an action was in fact performed in the past:

*After looking at his notes again, he **was able to** complete the exercise.*

Since *can/could* lack infinitive and participle forms, we use *be able to* where an infinitive or a perfect form is required:

*He should/ought **to be able** to help you.*

☻ Conditional *<u>could, would be able to.</u>*

When *could* (+ present infinitive) is used as the tentative form of *can*, it refers to present or future time:

*a) I **could** do it for you now if you like.*

*b) I **can't** do it immediately, but I **could** do it tomorrow morning.*

The reported version of sentence b) is:

I told him I couldn't do it immediately, but that I could do it the following morning.
In conditional sentences, *could* often represents the unreal present:

*If I knew how it works, I **could** tell him what to do.*

The equivalent form of *be able* in this case is *would be able*. In a conditional sentence, *could* + perfect infinitive expresses unreal past:

*If I had known how it worked, I **could** <u>have told</u> him what to do.*

Can and *could* are also used to refer to a general characteristic or quality that may show itself now and then:

*A house in London **can** cost a lot of money.*

*He **could** be very unpleasant when he was angry.*

!! Neither of these sentences refer to an actual occurrence of the phenomena referred to, and *be able* is not used as a substitute for *can* or *could* in such sentences.

☻ Possibility: *can, could, may, might.*

Many modal verbs have more than one meaning or use and in some cases two different modal verbs have some meanings or uses in common, but are not fully interchangeable.

1. *Some good books **can/may** be found at the bookshop in the centre of the city*. In this sentence *can* and *may* are fully interchangeable, *may* being a little more formal.

2. *Agreement between the two states **may** be reached in a month*.

If we wish to state a possibility rather than a fact, only *may* is appropriate here, which means, 'It is possible that agreement will be reached.' The distinction between sentences 1 and 2 may be paraphrased as: 1) 'It is possible for this to be done at any time' (statement of present fact); 2) 'It is possible that this will be done' (statement of future possibility).

Might represents the tentative form of *may* as used in sentence 2:

3.a. *I **may/might/could** drop in, of course* (present);

3.b. *The two parties **may/might/could** reach an agreement tomorrow* (future).

Could, often stressed, is quite usually used as an alternative to tentative *might* (3.a, 3.b). *Could* is not used in this way in assertive negative sentences:

4.a. *They **may/might not** reach an agreement tomorrow*.

4.b. *They **could not** reach agreement tomorrow*.

These sentences have quite different meanings because of the way the negative particle *not* operates. In assertive sentences with *may* or *might* (in the sense of possibility), *not* goes with the main verb:

*They **may/might** <u>not reach</u> agreement*. The other way is *not* going with the modal *could* (unless we use a special stress and intonation pattern):

*They **<u>could not</u>** reach agreement tomorrow* meaning that 'it is not possible that they will reach agreement tomorrow.' In this sentence *could* operates in a conditional context as well:

*They **could not** reach agreement tomorrow, even if they sat talking all day*. (Graver 1995: 26)

☻Permission: *can, could, may, might.*

When we give permission, we use *can* or *may*, the latter being considered more formal:

1. *You **can/may** speak to the patient for just a few minutes now/late/tomorrow*.

Asking for permission more tentatively (politely) we use *could/might*:

2. ***Can/Could/May/Might*** *I speak to Mr. Smith for a minute*? In the reported version of sentence 1. we use *could* or *might*:

3. *The nurse said we* ***could/might*** *speak to the patient for just a few minutes*.

We do not use *could* or *might* + present infinitive to refer to permission given in past time. We are obliged to use a paraphrase:

4. *We* ***had/were given permission*** *to speak to the patient*.

Could and *might* + perfect infinitive suggest that permission existed but the action was not performed:

5. *You* ***could/might*** *have come yesterday if you had wanted to*.

May is often used in clauses with a concessive meaning:

Your job ***may*** *be very demanding, but you are very well paid. May* + perfect infinitive is used when we refer to past time:

The work ***may*** *have been difficult, but you finished it on time*.

Might is sometimes used as a tentative way of making a request, suggestion or recommendation:

You ***might*** *send me a postcard while you're on holiday*.

In some contexts, *might* suggests sarcasm or annoyance on the part of the speaker:

You ***might*** *look where you're going*.

Expectation or probability: *should, ought to.*

S*hould* and *ought to* are often used to indicate what is regarded as probable or what may reasonably be expected:

The introduction of computer science ***should*** *greatly contribute to better education*.

Should and *ought to* + perfect infinitive refer to expectations in past time and may indicate that expectations were not realised or fulfilled:

He ***should*** *have past his driving test easily*.

This sentence can have two interpretations: a. 'Perhaps he has passed – at least, this is what we expected'; b. 'He didn't pass – this is not what we expected.'

Inference and logical conclusion: *must, can't.*

W*e use* *must* to assert what we infer, conclude or are sure to be the most likely interpretation of a situation or event:

He ***must*** *be at least sixty*.

We don't know for a fact that this is true, but taking everything into account, we think that this is almost certainly so. The opposite of *must* in this sense is *can't*:

He **can't** be anything like as old as that.

To refer to past time, we use *must* and *can't/couldn't* + perfect infinitive:

It **must** <u>have been</u> a great shock for him.

<u>Belief and conjecture: *will, would*.</u>

Will and *would* are used to express what we believe or guess to be true. Although they lack the assertive force of *must* and *can't*, they do not necessarily indicate any less certainty on the part of the speaker. Used with present infinitive they refer to present time and with perfect infinitive to past time:

You **will** already **be** familiar with his behaviour.

This statement does not refer to future time, but means 'You are, I feel sure, already familiar with his behaviour.' *Would* is used as a tentative form of *will* and is more often used than the latter in questions (which indicate some lack of certainty):

He **wouldn't be** a friend of yours, I suppose?

Would your name **be** Smith, by any chance?

That **will/would** <u>have been</u> the chance of your life.

<u>Characteristic behaviour: *will, would*.</u>

Will may be used to refer to a characteristic or persistent pattern of behaviour or event:

1. *When he has a problem to solve, he **will** work at it until he finds an answer.*

This isn't a prediction about a future event, but a statement having general current validity. *Would* is used to refer to a similar situation in past time:

2. *When he had a problem to solve, he **would** work at it until he found an answer.*

In these sentences we could use the simple present instead of *will* and the simple past tense (or *used to*) instead of *would* with little change, but less emphatically. If *will* and *would* are stressed, it indicates that the speaker is annoyed by some habitual behaviour:

4. *He **will/would** borrow my things without asking.*

<u>Inherent capacity: *will, would*.</u>

Will for present time and *would* for past time may refer to the possession of an inherent quality or capacity in relation to things (as opposed to people):

1. *The money in your pocket **will** buy far less today than it **would** ten years ago.*

The use of *will* and *would* may even suggest that an object is capable of co-operation or willingness (or their absence):

2. *The brown bag **will** hold everything.*

2. *This old car **wouldn't** start.*

Used in the last case *will* or *would* may appear in the *if* clause of a conditional clause:

*If the brown bag **will** hold everything, we can take less luggage.*

Will and *would* are not used with the verb *be* in a conditional clause. We do not say,

*If the brown bag will be big enough for everything, we can take less luggage.

Prediction: *shall, will.*

Besides referring to future time, all modal verbs carry some additional implication (ability, permission, possibility). *Shall* and *will* often carry an additional implication, too (promise, refusal, determination) and they are often used in a purely predictive sense, i.e. simply to state what will be in the future. When used with other persons than *I* and *we*, *shall* does not have a purely predictive meaning, and is not interchangeable with *will*. The use of *will* as alternatives to *shall*, can sometimes lead to ambiguity:

*I think I **shall/will** finish the work tonight.*

In the case of *will* or *'ll* the precise meaning of the speaker would be made clear only by the context, situation or intonation.

    a. *I think I **shall** finish the work tonight* (pure future).

    b. *I think I **will** finish the work tonight* (pure future or intention).

    c. *I think I'**ll** finish the work tonight* (a. or b.?). In negative sentences we use *shan't* and *won't* but the short form *'ll not* is not often used. The interrogative *Shall I/we?* used with an active verb form does not generally occur with a pure future meaning, since we rarely ask other people about our own future plans. It may be used in a pure future sense with verbs denoting actions or events which do not depend on the speaker for their performance:

***Shall/Will** I hear from you as soon as you get there*?

Shall I? is also used in a pure future sense with passive verbs, since the speaker is not in this case asking about his own future activities:

***Shall/Will** I be told the exact date of departure*?

In most cases *Shall I?* used with an active verb form represents a request on the part of the speaker to know the wishes or opinions of the person he is talking to, and in this case it is never replaced by *will*:

***Shall** I order another course*?

In reported speech *I shall* gives us a choice between *should* and *would*, only when the speaker reports his own words. The tendency is to use only *would*, probably because of the potential ambiguity of *should* in some contexts:

*I said I **should** be able to attend your course*, could be interpreted as the reported version of 'I should be able to come'. If the report is made by a person other than the original speaker, only *would* is used.

After the pronouns *you*, *he*, *she*, *it* and *they*, only *will* is used in a purely predictive sense. In many cases *will* may carry an additional implication, especially after the pronoun *you*. In statements, *you will* may represent an instruction rather than a prediction:

*'**You will** arrive on time at the meeting,' the president told his secretary.*

In questions, *will you*? may represent (a) a request for information, or (b) a request for action:

a. **Will you** *know the results of the contest soon*?

b. **Will/Would you** *wait for the manager, please*?

The predictive function of *will* is not obvious after *he*, *she*, *it*, *they*, and after nouns in general:

*The space shuttle **will** land at 6.00 p. m.*

<u>Advice</u> <u>and recommendation</u>

L. G. Alexander made a scale of choice of the modal verbs that go from advice and recommendation to necessity.

Advisability   *should*:   generally means 'in my opinion, it is advisable to' or 'it is your duty;

ought to: can be slightly stronger than *should* because it is sometimes used to refer to regulations or duties imposed from outside. *Should* is more likely to appear than *ought to* in questions and negatives;

had better: is stronger than *should* and *ought to*. It is used to recommend future action on a particular occasion, not in general. It carries a hint of threat, warning or urgency;

am/is/are to: can be used for instructions;

need to: 'it is necessary to'

have to: is an alternative to *must* and fills the gaps in that defective verb;

have got to: like *have to*, but more informal;

necessity   *must*:   like *have (got) to*, suggests inescapable obligation. In the speaker's opinion there is no choice at all. (1994: 228)

<u>*Should*</u> and <u>*ought to*</u> express advice or recommendation. They may relate to everyday or practical matters, or to what is morally desirable:

*You **should/ought to** see that film. It's really enjoyable.*

*You **should/ought not to** tell lies.*

All these sentences have a present or future time reference.

<u>*Had better*</u> (<u>*'d better*</u>) is used to suggest the wisest course of action in a particular situation:

*You**'d better** see an optician if your eyes still hurt.*

The short form is usually found in affirmative positive sentences. In affirmative negative sentences, the particle *not* comes after the complete phrase:

*You**'d better not** make a mistake next time.*

In interrogative negative sentences *n't* comes after *had*:

***Hadn't** you **better** go there by coach*?

It is used almost exclusively with the present infinitive to refer to present time. *Should* and *ought to* are used with the perfect infinitive to refer to past time and in this case the sentences always imply that the opposite was in fact true:

*He **should/ought to** <u>have been</u> a little more tactful* (but he wasn't).

Should is often used in a *that*-clause after verbs like *suggest, recommend, require, decide*:

*I suggest that he **should** leave with the next train. Should* is sometimes omitted in such sentences, using only the short infinitive (Graver1995: 40)[1]:

*I suggested that he **leave** with the next train.*

The verbal form is sometimes given the normal sequence of tenses:

*I suggested that he **left** with the next train.*

Should is sometimes used in adverbial clauses of purpose, after the conjunctions *so that, in order that, in case*:

*He spoke clearly <u>so that</u> everybody **should** understand his message.*

Should is also used in a *that*-clause after adjectives expressing pleasure, surprise, shock or disapproval, in sentences of the pattern, Subject + Be + Adjective + That-clause:

*I am <u>horrified</u> that he **should** have killed so many women.* This use is very common with the subject *it*:

*<u>It's odd</u> that you **should** know everything about my wife.*

Other adjectives of this kind are *important, essential, imperative, vital, inevitable*.

<u>Obligation and necessity: *must, mustn't, have (got) to.*</u>

A. *Must* has different meanings:

1) It expresses an instruction or obligation: *Candidates **must** write in ink only*;

2) It has a meaning of inner obligation: *He **must** confess everything to feel better*;

3) It expresses what is necessary or inevitable in the speaker's opinion: *We **must** express our vote by being present at the poll station*;

---

[1] R. Quirk identifies this form of short infinitive with the mandative subjunctive (see A University Grammar of English)

4) It expresses little more than advice, being stronger than *should. You **must** tell him about his mistakes*.

If obligation or necessity is imposed by a person other than the speaker, or by the circumstances, we use *have to*:

1. *You **have to** write in ink only* (The teacher explains to the pupils the requirements of the exam);
2. *He **has to** confess everything* (Those are the instructions he has been given);
3. *We **have to** express our vote* (Circumstances make it necessary);
4. *You**'ll have to** tell him about his mistakes* (If you put it off, he might never know about them).

B. *Must* can be used with adverbs having a present or future time reference:

*We **must** try it again now/later/next week*.

However, the obligation or necessity is felt by the speaker to exist *now* and its future inference is implied by the main verb (*try*). Where the obligation or necessity will exist only in the end or it depends on other events, we use *have to* with *will* or *shall*:

*If we miss the last bus we **shall have to** walk*.

C. The interrogative form in the present tense is generally formed with *do*:

*What time **do** you **have to** get to work*?

D. *Must* can be left unchanged in reported speech:

*You **must** tell me how to do it.*

He said I must tell him how to do it.

Must cannot be used to refer to obligation or necessity before the time of speaking. Instead we use *had to*:

*I **had to** shout to make myself heard in the crowd*.

E. We also use forms of *have to* to replace *must* where the latter lacks the tense forms:

1. Present progressive: *I**'m having to** read this very carefully*.
2. Present perfect: *I**'ve had to** give up the idea*.
3. Past perfect: *I**'d had to** give up the idea*.
4. Infinitive without to: *We **may have to** change our plans*.
5. Infinitive: *It's a pity **to have to** give up the idea*.
6. Gerund: *No one likes **having to** pay taxes*.
7. Conditional: *You **would have to** do it if he insisted*.
8. Conditional perfect: *You **would have had to** do it if he had insisted*.

F. *Must* and *have to* do not differ in meaning in cases where both are grammatically possible. The choice of a verb or another depends on the speaker's attitude.

G. The verb phrase *to be to* sometimes expresses a command or instruction coming from the speaker, or imposed on the speaker by external factors:

You **are to** give this letter to the manager.

You **are to** be there at ten. Such sentences always have a future time reference and the form **will be to* is never used. In reported speech and with past time reference we use *was/were to. Was/Were to* + perfect infinitive generally implies that instructions were not carried out:

You **were to have given** the letter to the manager (implying 'but you didn't').

H. If *must* is followed by a perfect infinitive it nearly always indicates an inference on the part of the speaker:

It **must** have been a great shock to him.

There are also instances where *must* + perfect infinitive is equivalent in meaning to:

It **is essential** that this should already have been done.

To be here on time, they **must** <u>have started</u> early in the morning.

I. *Must, have to* can also express the necessity for non-action and then they are used in the forms *mustn't* and *am/is/are not to*:

You **mustn't** say a word about this.

You **are not to** say a word about this.

Although the negative particle *not* often follows *must* as *n't* it does not cancel the obligation, but relates to the meaning of the verb:

You **must** <u>tell</u>/**not** <u>tell</u> him. ('I insist that you tell/not tell him.')

EXERCISES

21. Comment on the following statements using the words in brackets.

1. She didn't take her last exam. (can't)*She can't have studied hard enough*.

2. Nobody answered the phone. (might)

3. How did he persuade her to marry him? (could/might)

4. He didn't seem surprised when he heard the results. (may)

5. The Conservatives are very popular now before the elections. (should)

6. Our guests are expected to arrive before five. (ought)

7. I've looked everywhere for my car key. (must)

8. Did you say she phoned you from Madrid? (can't)

9. Your car is very fast. (will)

10. You are always late for work and the boss is getting angry. (had)

22. Complete the sentences with *must, mustn't* or a suitable form of *have to* or *have got to.*

1. You …*must*… hurry if you want to catch the bus.
2. Application forms … be written in bold type.
3. You …visit the Louver if you happen to be in Paris.
4. We lost our way in the mountains and we … call for the rescue team.
5. I'm sorry to …tell you the bad news, but you …know the truth.
6. Nobody likes …do the dirty jobs in a household.
7. If the crowd hadn't dispersed from the square, the police might …use water cannons.
8. When I heard him coughing so badly I …call the doctor, although it was after midnight.
9. Something …be done about it, otherwise the situation will get out of control.
10. You don't …get a visa to travel abroad nowadays.

23. Rewrite the sentences using *needn't* or a suitable negative form of *have to* or *need to*. (Obligation is expressed with a form of *have to* and (lack of) necessity is expressed with *needn't* or a form of *need to*).

1. It isn't necessary for them to buy a larger house. Their children will leave their home sooner or later.

   They needn't buy a larger house
2. You aren't obliged to come over if you don't feel like.
3. It isn't necessary for you to tell us your decision. You can think it over and tell us later.
4. You were not obliged to write to them so soon after all.
5. We're not supposed to go to work tomorrow as it is a public holiday.
6. The car had just been serviced so it wasn't necessary to check it up.
7. He was speechless. He realised he hadn't been obliged to tell everything to the police.
8. There was no need for them to make such a fuss as it changed nothing.
9. Fortunately, he told me it was not necessary to go there and thus I saved money and time.
10. It's hardly necessary for me to tell you how much I appreciate your help.

24. Choose the correct answer.
1. …*B*…I write with your pen? I don't know where mine is.
     A Must   B Can   C Shall
2. I …have a shower. I've been jogging for two hours.
     A must   B may   C can
3. John …play the guitar when he was ten.

A might   B could   C was able to

4. ...you help me with the luggage? There's no porter around.

   A must   B will   C may

5. You ...go to the market. I've already done the shopping.

   A mustn't   B can't   C needn't

6. You ...pay your rent otherwise you'll be evicted.

   A shall   B would   C must

7. Was the exercise difficult? Yes, but I ...solve it.

   A was able to   B ought to   C should

8. We ...paid with cash. They accepted cards too.

   A could have   B shouldn't have   C needn't have

9. What time ...we be at the airport to meet you?

   A must   B will   C shall

10. Did you ring Mary up yesterday? No, I... She came round to see us.

   A didn't need   B needn't   C haven't to

   –